

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 1

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1961, in accordance with Article 15(4) and (5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and Circular 1/62 of the Ministry of Health.

In 1961, there was reduction in the number of live births and an increase in the number of deaths in the Rural District when compared with the year 1960. The number of deaths of children under one year of age was greater than the number in the previous year. The complete freedom of the District from measles in 1960 was not maintained and the disease became very prevalent.

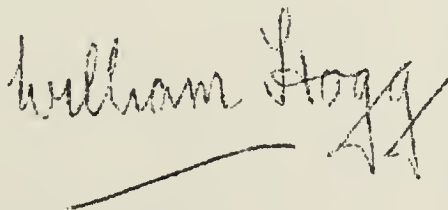
The Report contains no comment to which I wish the attention of the Council to be directed, but gives a summary of the work carried out by the Department during the year.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. W.H. Austin, Engineer and Manager to the Herefordshire Water Board, for information respecting the public water supplies within the Rural District. Also, I acknowledge assistance given me in the preparation of this Report and in the discharge of my duties throughout the year by Mr. H.B. Reynolds, Clerk to the Council; Mr. G.E. Hardy, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor; Mr. E.O. Christopher, Rating Officer; and Mr. L.R. Baldry, Housing Manager.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me during the year.


I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William Hogg', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Medical Officer of Health

18th July, 1962



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30041247>

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

1 9 6 1

Chairman - Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - Mr. L. Drayson Russill

Mrs. M.M. Gardner	...	Aston Ingham
Mr. L. Drayson Russill	...	Ballingham
Mr. J.H. Scudamore, J.P.	...	Brampton Abbotts
Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.	...	Bridstow
Mr. G.L. Clay, J.P.	...	Brockhampton
Mr. G.G. Bevan	...	Foy
Brigadier R.P. Waller	...	Ganarew
Mr. T.G. Richards	...	Garway
Mr. J.L. Trafford	...	Goodrich
Mr. H.W. Badger	...	Harewood End and Llandinabo
Mrs. M.J. Williamson	...	Hentland
Mr. T. Scott	...	Hope Mansel
Major H.S. Allfrey, J.P.	...	How Caple & Sollershope
Mr. R.J. Jenkins	...	Kings Caple
Mr. B.H. Savidge	...	Lea
Mr. K.W. Barter	...	Linton
Mr. J.B. Sainsbury	...	Linton
Mr. J.F. Maclean	...	Llangarron
Mr. F.G. Scudamore	...	Llangarron
Lt.-Cdr. G. Glenton	...	Llanrothal
Mr. H.A. Gundy	...	Llanwarne
Mr. G.W. Banfield	...	Marstow
Mr. S.R. Garner	...	Pencoyd
Mr. A. Cole	...	Peterstow
Mr. H.T. Allen	...	Ross Rural
Mrs. M. Allen	...	Ross Rural
Mr. J.H. Davies	...	St. Weonards
Mr. E.P.C. Whittall	...	Sellack
Mr. M. Howarth	...	Tretire and Michaelchurch
Mr. A.T. Powell	...	Upton Bishop
Mr. A.E. Thomson	...	Upton Bishop
Mr. W. Chinn	...	Walford
Mrs. A.E. Hill	...	Walford
Major J.H. Vaughan	...	Welsh Bicknor
Mr. W.R. Morgan	...	Welsh Newton
Mr. C.J.B. Jones	...	Weston-under-Penyard
Mr. D.A. Harper	...	Weston-under-Penyard
Mr. H.S. Cumbley	...	Whitchurch
Mr. J. King	...	Whitchurch
Mr. R.F. Cotton	...	Yatton

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale

Telephone:

Chepstow House,

Ross-on-Wye 2214

Ross-on-Wye.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND
HOUSING DESIGNATED OFFICER

+ Mr. G.E. Hardy, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

+ ϕ Mr. C.W.J. Manley, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P. & Hy.

+ Certificate as Inspector of Meats and other Foods.

ϕ Smoke Inspector's Certificate

ASSISTANT TO ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR (Part-time for Public
Health Purposes)

Mr. B.C. Chamberlain.

CLERK TO PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Mr. O.J. Scruby

Telephone:-

Woodside,

Ross-on-Wye 2391

Ross-on-Wye.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	=	72,105
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.61)	=	3,645
Rateable Value	=	£70,920
Sum represented by a penny rate	=	£270.0.11d.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	=	11,360
Area comparability factor (births)	=	1.14
Area comparability factor (deaths)	=	0.88

Vital Statistics for the YearLive Births

Number of live births	=	178
Live birth rate per 1000 population (crude)	=	15.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	=	5.6%

Stillbirths

Number of Stillbirths	=	5
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	=	27.3
Total live and still births	=	183
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	=	6

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	=	33.7
Legitimate Infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	=	17.9
Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	=	300.0
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	=	22.5
Early neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	=	22.5
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	=	49.2

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of maternal deaths	=	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	=	Nil

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District lies in the south of the County of Hereford, surrounding the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye. The area is entirely Rural in character, and the scenery of the Wye Valley attracts visitors. Limestone quarries are worked at Linton and Whitchurch. All types of farming are found within the Rural District.

Population

The year 1961 was a census year, and the sixteenth census of the population of England and Wales was taken on 23rd April. The census population of the Rural District on that date was 11,518, a decrease of 330 in the number (11,848) at the previous census in 1951. At the 1931 census the population of the Rural District was 11,608.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population for the Rural District is 11,360, or 3.12 persons per inhabited house. The average number of persons per acre, on this estimated population, is 0.16. The natural increase of the population for 1961 (excess of live births over deaths) is 31. Although the number of dwellings in the Rural District has increased since 1931, the population has shown little change. The number of inhabited dwellings at the end of the year was 3645.

Births

The number of live births registered as having occurred within the Rural District during the year is 178 (90 males and 88 females) and the crude live birth rate is 15.7 per 1000 of the estimated population. The area comparability factor is 1.14 and applying this to the crude birth rate, the adjusted live birth rate is 17.9 per 1000 estimated population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 17.4 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female live births is 1.02. In 1960, there were 186 live births in the Rural District.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 10 (4 male and 6 female). The illegitimate live births form 5.6% of the total live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 16.8 per 1000 estimated population.

Stillbirths

Five stillbirths occurred, two less than in the previous year. The stillbirth rate is 27.3 per 1000 total births.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1961 is 18.7 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the Rural District during the year is 147 (71 males and 76 females). In 1960 there were 144 deaths attributed to the Rural District. This total is obtained after deducting the number of deaths of non-residents which occurred within the Rural District and adding the number of deaths of residents which took place in other areas. The ratio of male/female deaths is 0.93.

The crude death rate for the District for the year is 12.9 per 1000 estimated population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.88 the corrected death rate is 11.3 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1961 is 12.0 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death
according to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Persons	Corrected D.R. per 1000 est. population
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1	0.08
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	1	2	0.15
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4	3	7	0.54
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	5	5	0.39
13.	" " uterus.	-	1	1	0.08
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	10	6	16	1.23
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	1	1	0.08
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	10	7	17	1.31
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	14	5	19	1.46
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1	0.08
20.	Other heart disease.	7	13	20	1.54
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	3	5	0.39
22.	Influenza.	1	3	4	0.31
23.	Pneumonia.	4	8	12	0.92
24.	Bronchitis.	1	-	1	0.08
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1	0.08
26.	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum.	1	1	2	0.15
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-	2	0.15
31.	Congenital malformations.	-	2	2	0.15
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	7	10	17	1.31
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4	0.31
34.	All other accidents.	2	4	6	0.46
35.	Suicide.	-	1	1	0.08
All Causes		71	76	147	11.33

Analysis of death by cause shows the most frequent cause is heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 40 deaths. The local corrected death rate for all forms of heart disease is 3.08 per 1000 estimated population. In the previous year heart disease accounted for 44 deaths.

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System

Deaths from strokes amounted to 17, a decrease of 9 on this figure in the previous year. The local corrected death rate from this cause was 1.31 per 1000 estimated population.

Cancer Deaths

In 1961 there were 31 deaths attributed to all types of cancer (15 males and 16 females) giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 2.39 per 1000 estimated population. In 1960, there were 24 deaths attributed to cancer. The death rate of all forms of cancer for England and Wales for 1961 is 2.16 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality

The number of babies under one year of age who died during the year was 6 (females). The local infant mortality rate for 1961 is 33.7 per 1000 live births and this rate for England and Wales is 21.4 per 1000 live births.

Neonatal Mortality

Four infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life.

Deaths from Acute Notifiable Infectious Disease

Twelve deaths were attributed to pneumonia - the only acute notifiable disease which caused death. The corrected death rate for the Rural District for 1961 from acute pneumonia is 0.92 per 1000 estimated population. In the previous year 5 deaths were attributed to pneumonia.

Tuberculosis Deaths

One death was attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The tuberculosis (all forms) death rate for England and Wales is 0.072 per 1000 population for 1961.

Influenza

Four deaths were attributed to influenza.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

Public Health Laboratory

The facilities available to the District at the Public Health Laboratory, County Hospital, Hereford remain unchanged.

The following table gives the number of investigations made on behalf of the Department during the year:-

Sputum	=	1
Faeces	=	18
Swabs	=	2
Urine	=	2
Water (bacteriological)	=	164
Ice Cream	=	36
Milk (phosphatase test)	=	64
Milk (methylene blue test)	=	71
Milk (biological)	=	5
Other Foods	=	12

Five samples of sewage effluent were submitted to the Public Analysts, Ellis & Turner, for chemical examination.

Public Mortuary

The Council has facilities for the reception of bodies from the Rural District at the public Mortuary, Ross-on-Wye. During the year, 11 bodies were admitted to the mortuary from the Rural District.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District, which is served by hospitals at Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth.

Ambulances

Ambulances are provided in the adjacent towns of Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth, for the use of persons residing within the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act 1948. Section 50

One burial was carried out by the Council under this section during the year.

Care of the Aged and Infirm - National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47

Two investigations were made under this section, both concerned with elderly persons. Admission to hospital was arranged for one of these persons and no action was necessary in the second case.

Residential Accommodation for the Aged

Residential accommodation for the able bodied aged persons is provided at the Chestnuts, Ross-on-Wye. This Home is provided and managed by the Herefordshire County Council, and can accommodate 42 persons.

The Rural District Council has provided at Fowbridge Gardens, Walford, an estate of 17 bungalows for aged persons with a Warden's flat. The construction of a similar estate at Weston-under-Penyard was commenced during the year.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology

The District is formed of Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System, with an outcrop of limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop to Gorsley and Aston Ingham. In the parishes of Walford and Whitchurch, along the southern boundary of the District, there is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone.

The Old Red Sandstone is represented chiefly by red and green sandstones and marl with outcrops of Old Red Conglomerate.

Water

All public water supplies in the Rural District, with the exception of a few public wells and springs, are provided by the Herefordshire Water Board. The Board obtains water for the supplies chiefly from the Castlebrook, Walford and Alton Court, Ross, pumping stations (boreholes in Old Red Sandstones) and the St. Weonard's and Llanwarne Scheme (springs).

During the year, the following extensions of public water mains were constructed by the Board in the Rural District:-

2" main	Yatton - Perrystone Hill	January, 1961
1" main	near Atlas Farm, Howle Hill	" "
2" and 1" mains	at Rattle Hill, Sollershope	" "
2" main	at Hole-in-the-Wall, Foy.	" "
2" "	Peterstow Orchards, Peterstow	" "
2" "	Kynaston, Hentland	February, 1961
3" "	Priors Barn, St. Weonards	September, 1961
3" "	Crossington Farm, Upton Bishop.	October, 1961
3" "	Pontshill	December, 1961

New works to improve public water supply comprised additional storage provided on the low level system at Deepdean and Howle Hill Reservoirs of 250,000 gallons and 100,000 gallons respectively. No new sources of public water supply were developed during 1961.

The number of dwellings within the Rural District supplied from the public water mains (excluding those on metered supplies), at the end of the year is given below:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Consumers</u>
Aston Ingham	98
Ballingham	25
Brampton Abbotts	50
Bridstow	176
Brockhampton	19
Foy	22
Ganarew	24
Garway	61
Goodrich	126
Harewood	5
Hentland	96
Hope Mansel	6
How Caple	6
Kings Caple	28
Lea	23
Linton	132
Llandinabo	2
Llangarron	162
Llanwarne	34
Marstow	43
Pencoyd	17
Peterstow	40
Ross Rural	132
St. Weonards	42
Sellack	55
Sollershope	10
Upton Bishop	36
Walford	284
Welsh Bicknor	7
Welsh Newton	2
Weston	114
Whitchurch	234
Yatton	10
Rural District	2121

There is a public standpipe in Llangarron and also one at St. Weonards supplied from the public water mains.

The water supplied by the Water Board has no appreciable solvent action on common metals.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are short public sewers within the parishes of Lea, Walford, Upton Bishop, Goodrich and Ross Rural. No extensions of public sewers or new works for sewage disposal were carried out during the year.

Five samples of effluent from the Hildersley Sewage Disposal plant were sent for chemical analysis; two of these just failed to comply with the Royal Commission standards.

During the year the Public Health Inspectors made 153 drain tests. Ninetytwo new drains were provided in connection with dwelling houses and 10 new drains were provided for other premises. Seventten existing drains were found to be defective and reconstructed or repaired. Fiftynine inspections were made in connection with drainage.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks other than those on the Council's property, which are cleaned by specialist contractors.

Rivers and Streams

No action by the Department or by the Council to prevent or abate river pollution was necessary during the year. The absence of trade effluents and the regular collection of domestic refuse have promoted cleanliness.

Two inspections of water courses were made during the year.

Closet Accommodation

It is estimated that 42% of the inhabitants are still obliged to rely upon pail closets and about 48% have the use of water closets. The remaining 10% still have to use privies. The reason for the continued use of conservancy systems is chiefly the lack of piped water supplies, but the position improves each year.

During the year 76 pail closets and 16 privies were converted to water closets. Apart from conversions, 20 new water closets were provided during the year.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of privies and pail closets.

No public conveniences are provided by the Council but need for these exists in the Whitchurch area. This parish has a large influx of day visitors during the holiday season.

Public Cleansing

The Council carried out the collection of domestic refuse from all accessible properties throughout the year - about 85% of dwellings are included in the collection, which is carried out by a motor refuse vehicle, of 10 cubic yards capacity provided with covers, tipping gear and a crew of two men. The collection is supervised by the Public Health Inspector. With only one vehicle it is possible only to make a monthly collection. During the year the vehicle travelled 13,250 miles and conveyed 662 loads - an average of 20 miles per load.

Disposal of the refuse is by tipping at Doward Quarry, Whitchurch, Cwm Maddock, Garway and Deep Dean, Walford.

The Council has no responsibility for street cleansing, this being a duty of the highway authority - the Herefordshire County Council

There are no public baths or wash-houses in the Rural District.

Swimming Baths and Pools

From April to September one privately owned swimming pool was open to the public on payment. It is provided with a purification plant and was maintained in a satisfactory condition. The pump circulates 7,000 gallons hourly and is pumping from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., alternating with 24 hour pumping. The purification is effected by chlorine and ozonisation and the bottom of the pool is brushed and the surface of the water skimmed.

Five thousand gallons of pool water are extracted each day and replaced by fresh water.

On 15 occasions samples of pool water were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all samples were satisfactory.

Shops and Offices

Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961

Shops Act 1950 (Sections 38 & 72(2))

The number of shops and offices within the District is small and no action was necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936 in connection with shops. The number of inspections of shops was 40.

Camping Sites - Public Health Act 1936 Section 269 (1)

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 Section 3

Forty sites were used for camping purposes in the Rural District during the year and of these 9 were licensed under Section 3 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time was 720.

Nine inspections of camping sites were made and 18 caravan inspections carried out. When sites are inspected attention is given to water supply, sanitary accommodation, refuse disposal and spacing.

The popularity of trailer caravans for camping purposes continued.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Hydrogen Cyanide Regulations (Fumigation of Buildings) Regs. 1951

No dwellings were found to be infested with bed bugs, and no disinfestations were required. When need for disinfestation arises this is usually carried out by specialist contractor using hydrogen cyanide.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Hardy, Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1961 furnished in accordance with Article 25(2) Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959:-

Inspections

Accumulations	=	16
Agriculture (S.H. & W. Prov.) Act.	=	44
Bakehouses	=	9
Camping Sites	=	9
Canteens	=	2
Caravans	=	18
Control of Pests	=	155
Dairies	=	4
Drainage	=	59
Drain Tests	=	153
Factories (without mechanical power)	=	Nil
Factories (with mechanical power)	=	84
Food Poisoning	=	13
Food Handling Byelaws	=	22
Food Premises	=	49
Housing	=	164
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	=	7
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	=	47
Infectious Disease	=	26
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	=	3
Nuisances	=	12
Offensive Smells	=	2
Overcrowding	=	12
Petroleum Stores	=	26
Refuse Tips	=	13
Schools	=	71
Sewage Disposal Works	=	9
Sewers	=	5
Shops	=	40
Sanitary Conveniences	=	4
Stalls	=	6
Swimming Baths and Pools	=	14
Unsound Food	=	5
Water Supply	=	194
Water Courses	=	2
Work Places	=	241

Notices Issued

Informal	=	27
Statutory re Housing	=	11

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	=	6
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	=	172
Ditches cleared	=	4
Domestic baths provided	=	78
Drains and Gullies cleared	=	12
Drains repaired	=	6
Drains reconstructed	=	10
New drains provided	=	92
Defective floors repaired	=	28

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued)

Defective roofs repaired	=	39
Defective eaves gutters repaired	=	42
Defective brickwork repaired	=	23
Defective Coppers remedied	=	2
Disinfections after Infectious Disease	=	2
Disinfestations	=	1
Defective windows repaired	=	25
Defective chimneys repaired	=	12
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	=	57
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	=	10
Closets repaired or renewed	=	6
New gullies provided	=	8
Gully covers provided	=	10
Inspection chambers repaired	=	2
Old drains sealed	=	18
Paving repaired	=	37
Privies converted to water closets	=	16
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	=	45
Staircases repaired	=	13
New sinks provided	=	37
Soil pipes repaired	=	4
Sanitary fittings provided	=	97
Stoves repaired	=	3
Moveable dwellings removed	=	4
New urinals provided	=	1
Ventilation improved	=	22
Wells cleansed or repaired	=	4
Miscellaneous defects remedied	=	17

Agriculture , Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions Act 1956
Sections 3 and 6

The number of inspections carried out under Section 3 of this Act on farms and agricultural holdings within the District was 44 and 40 of these complied with the Act. No formal action by the Council was necessary as informal action secured compliance.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority as factories increased to 21. Two of these were new registrations and all were factories with mechanical power.

There are no outworkers registered with the Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1961, for the Rural District of Ross and Whitchurch in the County of Hereford.

PART I OF ACT

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	21	84	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	63	146	-	-
Total	84	230	-	-

2. No Defects under the Act were found.

Petroleum Regulations

The number of new licences granted for the storage of petroleum spirit was 1, and 1 existing installation for storage was discontinued during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act is administered on behalf of the constituent Councils by a Joint Committee formed by the three adjoining Rural Districts of Hereford, Ledbury and Ross and Whitchurch. The Joint Committee employs one whole time inspector and two operatives, and enters into contracts with occupiers for keeping premises free from rodents. Ninety such contracts were in operation within the Council's District during 1961. The value of these contracts was £796.

The following table shows the work carried out in the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District. The number of inspections made during the year was 155.

	Premises inspected	Total Infest- ations	R a t s		Mice	No. of proper- ties treated	Stat- utory Notices
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties	6	11	-	11	-	11	-
Dwelling Houses	60	42	-	38	4	20	-
Agricultural Properties	36	23	2	21	-	800	-
All other (including business) Premises	10	8	-	8	-	36	-
Total	112	84	2	78	4	867	-

SECTION D - HOUSING

During 1961, no new Council houses were completed but the erection of 20 bungalows for aged persons and a Warden's flat was commenced at Weston-under-Penyard. The Council did not purchase any dwellings during 1961 and no Council houses were sold. At the end of the year, the Council owned 360 dwellings, which is approximately one tenth of the inhabited houses in the Rural District.

Private persons completed 20 dwellings during the year and had a further 22 under construction at the end of December.

Housing Act, 1957. Part IV - Overcrowding

At the beginning of the year, six dwellings were known to be overcrowded within the meaning of the Act. Five cases of overcrowding came to the notice of the Department during 1961 but it was possible to secure relief of overcrowding in two dwellings, in which thirteen persons were concerned. The number of overcrowded houses remaining at the end of the year was 9. This is an increase of 3 on the number at the beginning of the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) = 164
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation = 12
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation = 87

Unfit Houses closed during the YearHousing Act, 1957

Unfit Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1)
and 35(1) = 11

Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

		<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
After informal action by Local Authority	=	171	-
After formal notice under			
(a) Public Health Acts	=	Nil	Nil
(b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act 1957	=	Nil	Nil
Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	=	Nil	-

Proceedings under Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958
(Part 2) Section 30

The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings = 11

House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 (Part 2) Section 4

This section provides assistance in the provision of standard amenities in dwellings - that is a fixed bath or shower, a washbasin, a hot water supply, a water closet, and facilities for storing food. Fiftyseven standard grants were made by the Council during 1961.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act 1899House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 Section 3

No advances were made by the Council under these Acts during the year.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. Part 2 Section 43

The Council made 23 advances during 1961 to assist persons in house purchase.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

The Rural District is a specified area and only designated milk, that is tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised milk may be sold retail within the District.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council was 10 - one more than in 1960. The number of dairy inspections made was 4 and an improvement was obtained in one dairy as a result of informal action.

No action was necessary under Regulations 18, 19 or 20. Seven samples of tuberculin tested milk were sent for biological examination - all were satisfactory. In addition, 10 samples were found to comply with the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960.

Sixty-two samples of pasteurised milk were sent for examination and only two of these failed to comply with the Regulations.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

There are five bakeries, one factory for preserved meat and one factory for the manufacture of soft drinks registered with the Council under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No formal action was necessary as a result of inspection of these premises.

Ice Cream

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 1, and the number registered for the storage and sale of this food was 39. In addition, three vehicles are registered for storage and sale of ice cream. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 47. Conditions of storage and sale were satisfactory.

There is no manufacture of heat treated ice cream in the Rural District - the manufacturer uses a cold mix.

Thirtysix samples of this food were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year. All of these were classified as provisional grade 1, except four in provisional grade 2.

There was no reason to suspect this food as a cause of acute disease in the population.

Water Cress

This food grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the District. There are no commercial beds within the area, and the sale of water cress is small.

No illness was attributed to the consumption of infected water cress.

Shell Fish

The sale of shellfish appears to be small, and no case of illness was attributed to this food. There are no fishmongers in the Rural District - supplies being obtained from adjacent towns.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the area. All meat is obtained by traders from abattoirs of adjacent Districts.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	-	-	-	-	-	-

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958. Section 3

During the year, the Council issued 17 licences to slaughtermen under the above mentioned section. Four of these permitted the slaughter of horses in addition to other animals. Eight licences permitted the slaughter of pigs only.

Diseases of Animals Acts. Anthrax Order 1938

No notifications of disease occurring in animals was received during the year.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations - 1960

All premises to which these Regulations apply were inspected; the number of such inspections was 49. Informal action secured the reconstruction of a bakehouse, the provision of two new mobile food shops and the cleansing and redecoration of one premises.

Food and Drugs Act 1955. Section 15Byelaws as to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in Open Air

There are no markets held within the Rural District, and the sale of food from stalls is limited. The sale of food from vehicles does take place, and since the adoption of the byelaws attention has been given to vendors' vehicles. During the year 22 inspections were made under these byelaws.

Food and Drugs Act 1955. Section 26 - Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was notified. This occurred during the second quarter of the year and investigation showed that infection was due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium* Type 2C. The source of infection was not ascertained.

An investigation of a complaint of sickness and vomiting of a number of pupils following a meal at school showed that this was not caused by bacterial food poisoning but the symptoms could have been caused by solanine in new potatoes. However, it was not possible to obtain confirmation of this as sufficient residue of the potatoes was not available.

One suspected outbreak of food poisoning was investigated and found not to be caused by food poisoning.

Unsound Food

The following list gives particulars of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
1 x 6 lbs. tin	Corned Beef	Decomposition
3 x 6 lbs. tins	Ox Tongue	Blown tins
3 lbs.	Shoulder	Decomposition
1 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Cooked Shoulder	"
5 x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. tins	Peeled Tomatoes	Damaged or blown tins

Food found to be unfit for human consumption is buried on the refuse tips under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

No special examination of stocks or particular consignments of food was necessary during the year.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The diminishing incidence of acute notifiable disease experienced during 1959 and 1960 in the Rural District did not continue into 1961 as there were 284 notifications during the year. In the previous year there were 53 notifications. The difference was caused by the prevalence of measles in 1961. The notification rate for the Rural District for the year was 25.0 per 1000 estimated population. The incidence of other acute notifiable diseases was low and the Rural District was free from diphtheria, acute poliomyelitis, enteric fevers and dysentery throughout 1961.

Confirmed Cases of Acute Infectious Disease in each Quarter in 1961

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>Year</u>
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	3
Whooping Cough	4	8	12	2	26
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	-	2
Measles	14	173	62	2	251
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	1
All Diseases	21	183	76	4	284

Measles

After complete freedom from measles for more than one year, the disease appeared early in January. Further cases were notified in the following month and the disease continued to spread for many weeks, disappearing in the last quarter of the year.

The geographical distribution of the cases suggested a spread from the periphery of the Rural District towards the centre, ultimately involving all parishes.

The number of cases notified was 251, giving a measles notification rate for 1961 for the Rural District of 22.1 per 1000 estimated population. The period of maximum incidence was the second quarter of the year and that of the lowest incidence the final quarter.

There were 160 households involved, and 96 of these experienced only one case each. A further 43 each experienced two cases, whilst 16 families each gave rise to three cases. One family gave rise to 5 cases. The age group with the greatest incidence was the younger school group, over 5 years but under 10 years. Ten notifications were received in respect of persons over 15 years of age. Some of the cases were of moderate severity.

A history of contact with a previous case was obtained in 73 instances. The number of males infected was slightly greater than the number of females, the ratio being 133/118

Whooping Cough

Whooping Cough was second to measles in frequency during the year, as 26 notifications were received. This was 12 less than the previous year and gave a whooping cough notification rate for the Rural District of 2.3 per 1000 estimated population. Most of the cases occurred in the second and third quarters of the year, but as usually happens the Rural District was never completely free from the disease.

Over half the patients were children in the over 5 and under 10 years age group.

There was a recognisable geographical distribution of these notifications - 11 cases in Bridstow, 4 in Foy and 2 in Peterstow and 1 in Marstow; these being adjacent parishes.

The number of families involved was 16, of which 10 each experienced a single case and 4 each gave rise to two cases. One household yielded 5 cases.

Scarlet Fever

Only two cases of scarlet fever were notified, one in the second quarter and the other in the third quarter of the year. There did not appear to be any connection between the cases. Both the patients were young school age children.

Pneumonia

Three cases of pneumonia were notified, all arose in the first quarter of the year. However, 12 deaths of residents were attributed to the disease - seven more than in the previous year.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Total
Measles	4	15	24	24	20	127	27	8	1	1	-	251
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
Whooping Cough	3	1	3	2	1	14	-	-	1	1	-	26
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
All Diseases	7	16	27	27	21	143	27	9	3	4	-	284

Other Infective Diseases

In the first quarter of the year, at least three cases of glandular fever occurred. The diagnosis was confirmed in each of these, one of whom suffered pneumonia as a complication. The cases were localised in Glewstone - two patients were adult and one a child.

German measles occurred during the first six months of the year - the patients generally being children. This infection was not localised to any part of the District. Mumps began to occur in the population in April and continued to occur in different localities for the remainder of the year.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 98 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 74 being in respect of respiratory disease. During the year 4 cases of respiratory disease were added, and of these 2 cases were new infections.

The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 9 (8 respiratory). Three cases of respiratory disease and one of non-respiratory disease were regarded as having recovered. Four cases moved out of the Rural District and one male case died from the disease.

At the end of the year 93 cases (73 respiratory and 20 non-respiratory) remained on the register.

The 1961 death rate from all forms of tuberculosis for England and Wales is 0.072 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality during 1961

Age Groups.	<u>New Infections</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

